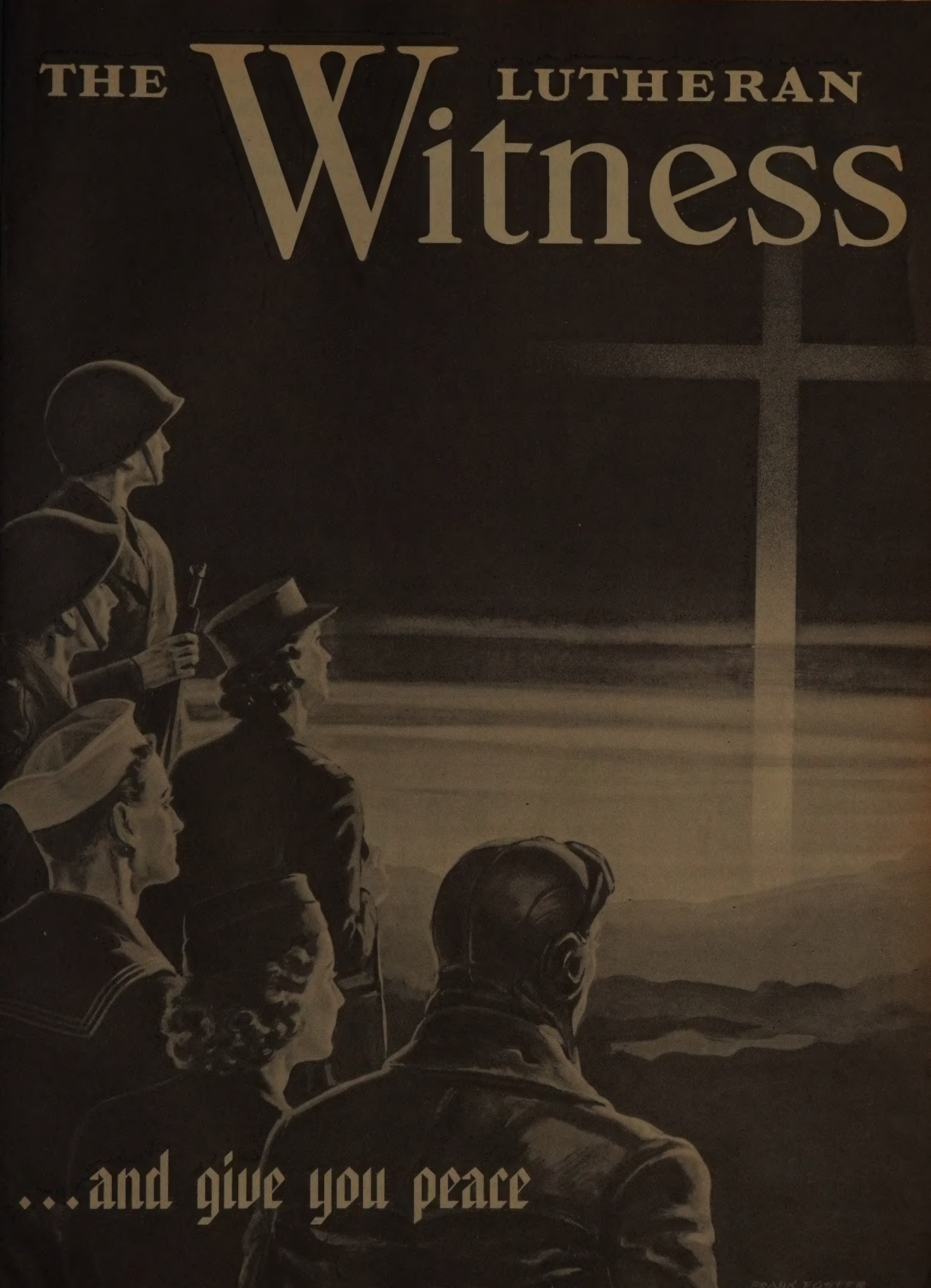
THE LUTHERAN Witness



The WORK Must Go On

GOD'S precious gift of peace has come to us and to all the world. Our loved ones in uniform are again safe from bombs in the air and from torpedoes in the sea. God has broken the bow; He has cut the spear in sunder. And our hearts overflow with thanks to our God.

FOR many of our dear ones the war was over earlier. Snatched in raging battle from this vale of tears, they now know the peace that has no ending. They are before the throne rejoicing in their God; and we, who are still in the everyday conflicts of this earth, strive with tearful eyes to echo their joy.

THEIR brothers and sisters in uniform are continuing in large numbers in all branches of the armed forces in North America and in overseas units for many months to come. For these there is still a job ahead. 400,000 men will be needed in the Army of Occupation in Germany. Japan and the islands of the Pacific will be occupied for a long period. Demobilization of the Army and Air force will therefore be slow. Demobilization of the Navy will be even slower.

OUT there, wherever our Christian men and women are serving their country, their needs in health or sickness are upon our hearts. To us they look for the treasures of God's Word and for Christian fellowship. To us each one of them is saying, "Think of me, and put me between your folded hands."

BATTLE tensions are past. There is more leisure. And there is a tendency to throw off moral restraints. New dangers and temptations arise in the unusual situations of life. As Pastor F. Proehl, a member of the Army and Navy Commission declares, "If ever there is a testing time for Christian character, it is when the danger of warfare is over and there is a comparative lull in the life of the average soldier. It is only reasonable to suppose that men who live in constant danger of life carry somber thoughts within their hearts. With danger no longer imminent, man's heart is inclined to give way to the feeling of release."

WHAT is the Army and Navy Commission going to do? Here is the answer. Our Church is giving this Commission the mandate: The work MUST go on. The entire program must continue at the same pace for months to come. We cannot let down on our Gospel ministry for our service men and women.

"THE American soldier is the best-equipped and best-fed soldier in the world." Can our Church do less to back him spiritually? The Army and Navy Commission is the promise of our Church that we shall do everything to give him the riches of Christ. This Commission is on the job all over the world. The Chicago office is sending out a stream of Christian prayer books, pamphlets, short sermons — more than one million copies a month — to reach Christian hearts in all parts of the globe with the strengthening message of Christ. 236 chaplains and 1,000 key pastors of our Church receive their supplies from this Commission. It has helped establish 83 parish and service centers.

THE Commission is promoting a growing ministry to the sick and wounded in Army, Navy, and veterans' hospitals. In just one small area on the West Coast there are approximately 700 members of our Synod in such hospitals.

THE treasury is low. For months to come this special program of our Church will call for financial outlays on the same level as before. The work is a great one. Our Church requests for this work your continued whole-hearted co-operation, your fervent prayers, and your generous financial support.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

Official Organ of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States

Editorial Committee: THEODORE GRAEBNER, MARTIN S. SOMMER
Associate Editors: W. G. POLACK, G. V. SCHICK, R. R. CAEMMERER

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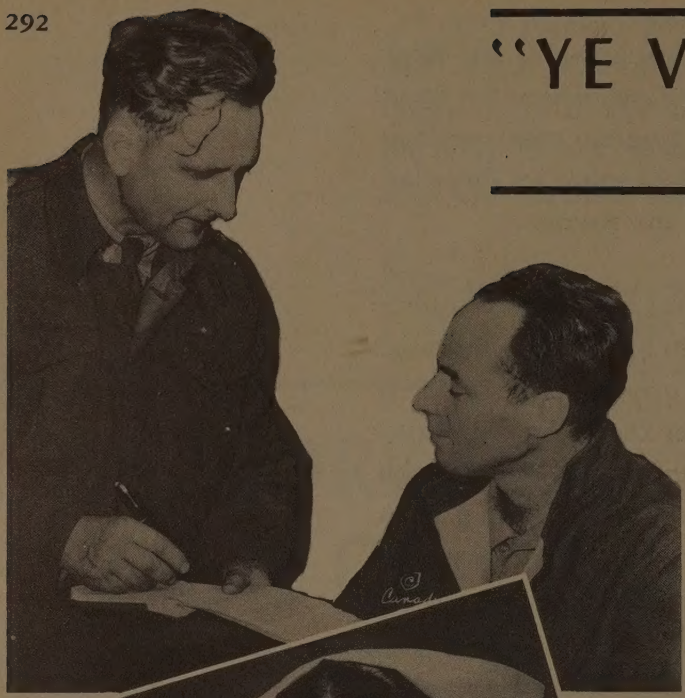
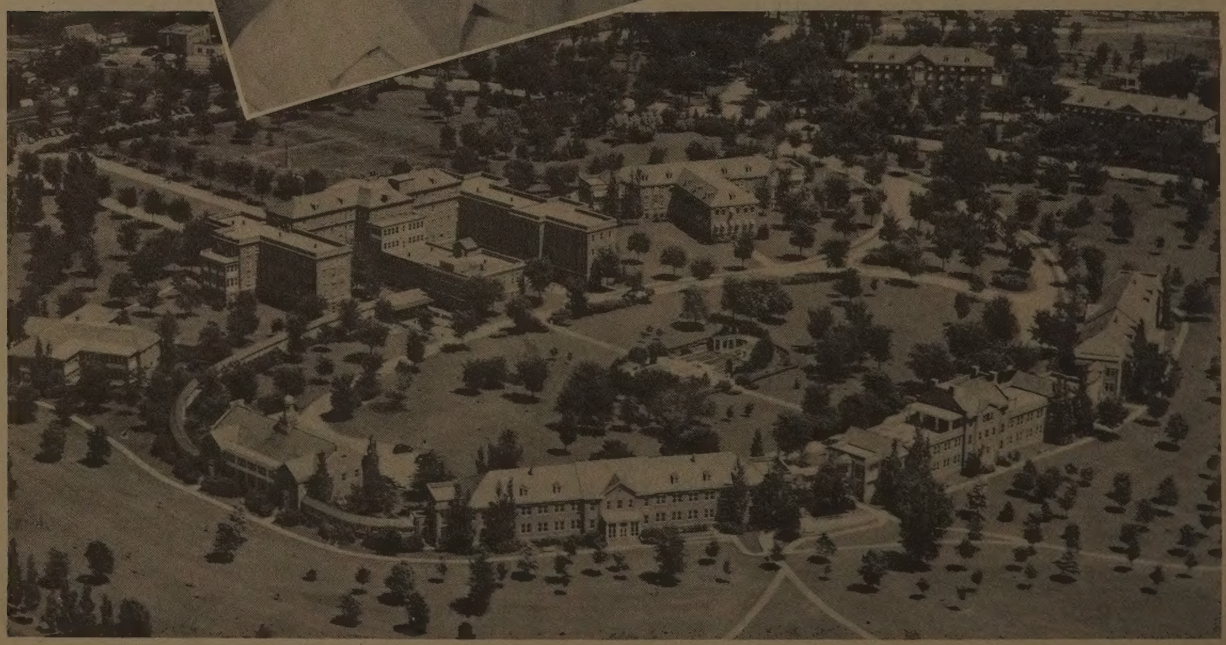
"YE VISITED ME"
in the hospitals



THEY left home hearty and hale, faced gunfire, and now a fleet of hospital ships, marked with 16-foot red crosses, have each month brought 30,000 of them back to this country. By phones attached to their beds someone receives a call, "Hello Mom," or "Hello, darling, this is . . . " Many of these have been wounded two or three times; one sergeant had been wounded seven times. A woman spoke for us all when she went up to the bed of a soldier and said gently, "Thank you for being wounded for me."

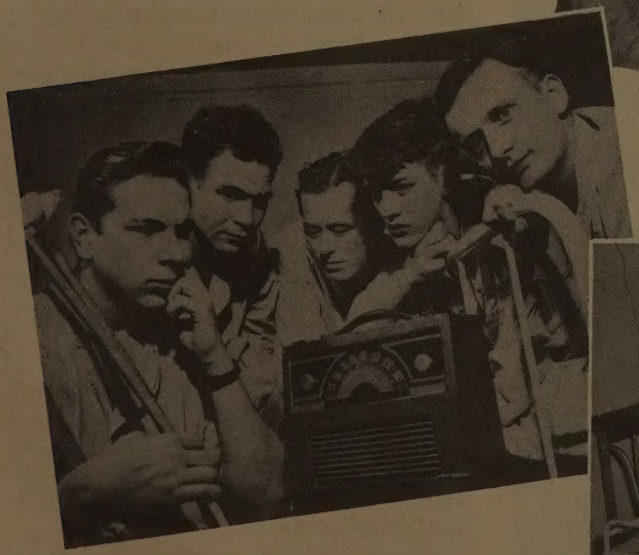
These are our husbands, brothers, sons, thousands of them, in the prime of their life coming out of battle broken and depressed. How can they travel the long road back? Hearts, too, have been bombarded, hopes have become casualties, planned futures have been amputated, dreams have been shattered; and so these men stare at blank walls

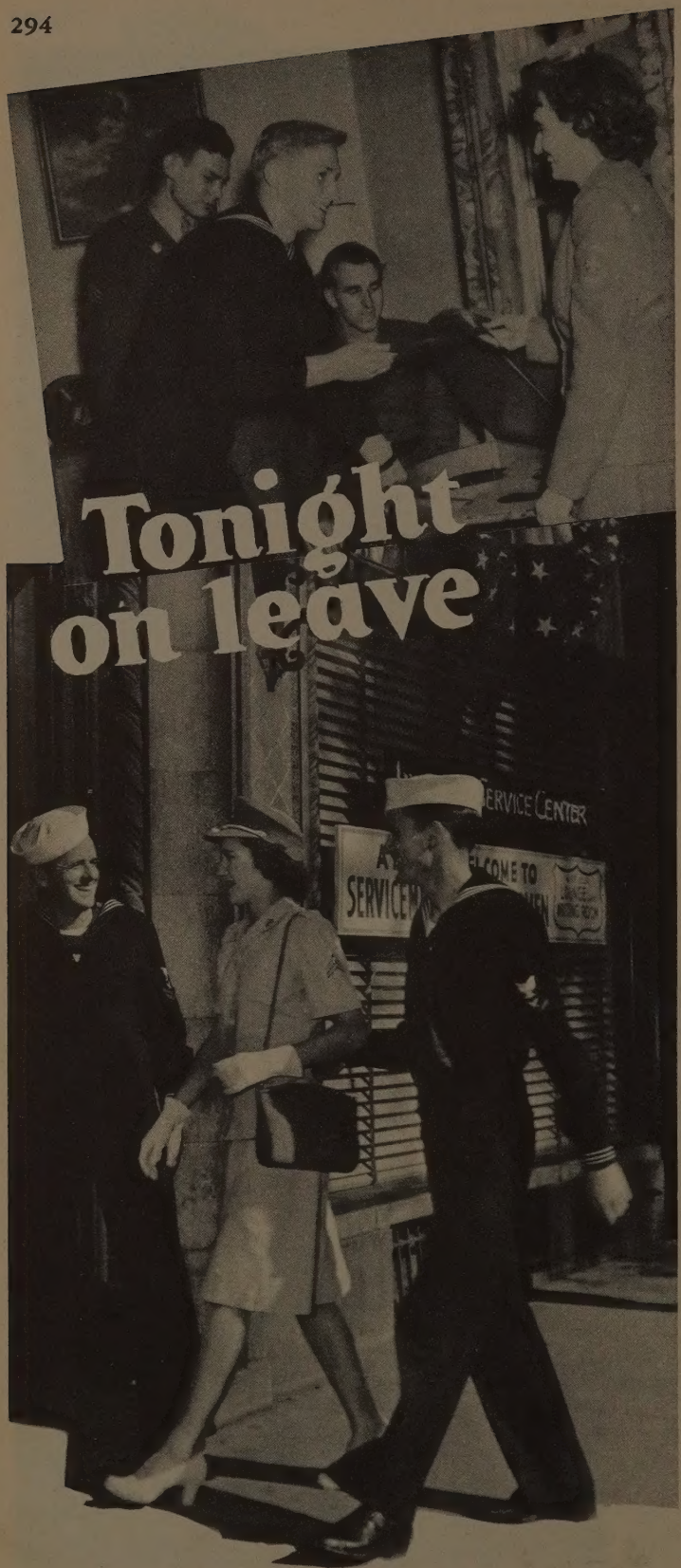


and try to forget the loss of a limb or an eye.

They need someone to help them forget their nightmares, to fill a void that is hard to fill and take the loneliness out of a threadbare existence, someone to wipe away the grit of futility, to ally himself with them in the fight for victory over a shot-up body, and to bring them the zest of living for something worthwhile. In this "third" battle area, in the hospitals, our Church must be in the front lines.

These men need to unload their problems and to get the comfort of the everlasting Gospel. This comes to them through the work of our Commission. Pastors visit at their bedside, and literature is sent to them regularly to bring them the Word of their God, which is mighty to cheer them; for Jesus speaks through it to each wounded serviceman, "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God; believe also in Me" — in Me, your Physician. His love drives out fear, His peace dissolves inner conflicts, His comfort heals bitter hurts. His Word has heavenly power to create happiness and a victorious life in the Savior.





WE NEED MORE SERVICE CENTERS

THE birthday cake, unpacked on the floor, was in full view. Three mouths watered for the rich brown chocolate. As eyes wandered back and forth to the cake, Charlie snapped his fingers, "I've got it! Who wants to celebrate his birthday in the barracks? Who wants to eat that beautiful cake without some coffee? Gentlemen, I propose that we go to the —"

"Lutheran Service Center!" his two friends joined in.

Ken jumped down. "Well, what are we waiting for?"

The next five minutes set the three soldiers on their way to the spot where they had often found friendly faces and clean entertainment. —

To the same place a soldier took his girl friend. She writes: "We spent a good many hours at the Center, playing ping-pong, checkers, darts, listening to the radio and talking to other folks there. On Sunday we attended the morning services, and my heart was overwhelmed when I saw these soldier boys so far from home kneel down before the Communion table." There her friend was instructed and baptized. The service pastor wrote her, "It certainly was a pleasure to do this for him."

We have 83 parish and service centers; 26 of the service centers are maintained in co-operation with the National Lutheran Council. Most of the pictures on these two pages show the activity at our Detroit service center.

Now that peace has come the need of Lutheran service centers will in some areas become more important than during the war. New centers will have to be opened for thousands of Lutherans with our occupational forces in Germany and in the Pacific. Here at home the service centers will be busy providing Christian atmosphere and fellowship especially in the ports where the fleets come in.

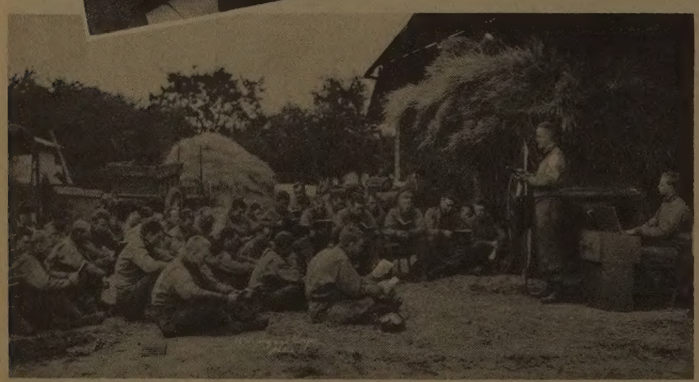
The heart of the center is the service pastor, who answers a multitude of troubling questions, leads in Bible

study and worship, and distributes the Lord's Supper to our young people.

Then there is the corps of tireless women who serve hamburger sandwiches and heaping plates until late into the night and laughingly tell those who lay money on the counter, "You can't spend any money here." The Lutheran churches of San Francisco contribute $15,000 worth of food a year. All that's behind the question "Have a another piece of pie?" And 8,500 uniforms have been mended and altered by our women in Miami.

The largest lump of the Army and Navy Collection goes for service centers; rentals run into many thousands of dollars a month. But no one feels any regret when he hears servicemen say, "This is the greatest thing the Church has done for us." Stewart B. Zimmermann: "Here is a million thanks from one sailor for all the pleasant hours I have spent in the San Francisco center." Four million people visited our service centers last year; thirty thousand sons and daughters of our Church walk in and out of the Los Angeles center each month. They come back because they like it there. At the Honolulu center over five thousand partook of the Lord's Supper last year. From China comes a word of surprise from Pvt. Roger H. Tegmeyer, "There's even a Lutheran service center *here.*"

OUR CHAPLAINS *Around the World*



"The Lutherans are setting the pace for all the churches in their Army-Navy program," said a high officer in the army. "Excellent reports come to us on the work of Lutheran chaplains without any exception. They are men of real loyalty and devotion to duty. They emphasize religion as the basis of all human purposes and acts, and consequently their military service has a quality that every soldier needs."

Our 236 chaplains think it a joy "to be the channel through which God takes a sick, discouraged, homesick, weary soldier and makes him a brighter spirit with new courage, new hope, and a new vision." As Chaplain Scharlemann says, "The chaplaincy is tremendously worth while."

Chaplain Langhans has traveled hundreds of miles by packmule in China. Such loyalty in our chaplains has made a mark in our servicemen and women. "Yes, our Lutheran people are right behind us wherever we go," writes Pvt. A. G. Bruesewitz. "Nothing cheers a soldier up more than to know his Church is following him all over this earth. God shall surely reward you all for your very good work."—Pvt. Victor E. Mentz.

Their work goes on. "Now that the stress and tension of war is over," says Chaplain Victor Dahlke, "our big job will be to keep these men who will stay over here with the Church. This means planning religious programs of interest: Bible classes, vesper services, Walther League meetings."

W. N. THOMAS,
Chief of Chaplains, USN

LUTHER D. MILLER,
Chief of Chaplains, USA

September 11
1945

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Editorial

"World-wide Bible Reading"

That is what the Bible Society intends to inaugurate or at least to encourage for the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In a pamphlet this Society asks the question: "What is world-wide Bible reading?" and gives this answer: "It is a plan to get people all over the world to read Bible selections daily between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Special emphasis will be put on reading by those on the battle fronts and their people at home."

We have not the least doubt that most of our readers have the devotional booklets published by Concordia Publishing House. If, by some oversight, there still are homes in our congregations where these booklets are not in use, they ought certainly to begin very soon to enjoy the blessings offered in these booklets. If one prefers to read longer selections from the Bible, the *Lutheran Annual* of this year, on p. 18, offers a very helpful series of Bible readings for the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Remember what God promises to those who give attention to His Word: "Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it," Luke 11:28. And again, through the Apostle Paul God says to everyone of us: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified," Acts 20:32.

We cannot begin to tell of the temporal and eternal blessings which come to man through the Bible. But the proof of the pudding is the eating of it. Try it yourself, dear friend, and you will not need to believe the testimony of anyone else. You yourself will rejoice in the riches which this Book bestows. S.

The Campaign Against Niemoeller

Editorial writers quite generally had lauded him to the skies as the man to whom the world was looking for the moral regeneration of Germany. The interviews of the correspondents and of American and British churchmen had praised his record of fearless confessionalism and had recorded his regrets for certain violations of international law by the Nazi government. They could not but mention the fact that Niemoeller is a Lutheran. We are just wondering whether that has something to do with the sudden campaign of vilification against this man which is spreading through the press.

Bishop Oxnam, whose first meeting with Niemoeller after his liberation had received wide publicity, contributes an article to a recent issue of the *Christian Century,* in which he expresses his amazement over this change of attitude. Pastor Niemoeller is being dismissed by columnists and editorial writers as "nothing but a Nazi after all," on the strength of remarks he is reputed to have made regarding loyalty to constituted authority. Two or three sentences spoken to a newspaper correspondent are sufficient to wipe out every prospect of enlisting the influence of this national hero for the re-establishment of Germany as a state. A columnist in the *Detroit News* of August 8, Philip A. Adler, pictures Niemoeller as "pulling wires, hobnobbing with politicians, generals, and bankers," in order to become president of Germany! He quotes from Niemoeller's sermons to show that he has been fearfully overrated. Adler quotes a sentence from a sermon in which Niemoeller assured the hearers that the Gospel is "an offense to Jews and a stumbling block to the Greeks, and ever will be." Now, after the word "Greeks" the columnist inserts in parentheses the words: "presumably the Greek Orthodox Church," then adds this comment on the words quoted: "He thus implied that Judaism and Greek Orthodoxy do not accept divine teachings," and then caps the climax by commenting: "Niemoeller prophecies, it is evident, smack more of Hitler than of Isaiah." Quite evidently, rather, the columnist did not recognize one of the most familiar sayings of Paul, quoted from his First Letter to the Corinthians.

We are just wondering what influences are at work in this effort to discredit a man, by fair means or foul, who might have given the Lutheran world-view an opportunity to re-establish Germany as a nation. G.

Predictable Changes

During World War I the prediction was often heard — "When the boys come back, they will play the very devil with your denominational Christianity. They won't stand for your creeds and theological distinctions." Well, the boys came back, and ever since the liberal churches have been liberal still — though Lutheran liberalism lost much of its hold as the years passed by — and conservative churches are conservative still. Much the same predictions are being made about the men and women returning to America after the end of hostilities in the Pacific. What changes, then, have we a right to expect?

In the letters that we see in the parish papers of our Synod — and we have read thousands upon thousands of these in the past four years — there is no sign of a great apostasy but, on the contrary, every token of confessional loyalty. Partly this is due to the personal interest which our pastors have shown their young men and women when in camp and overseas. Partly it is the notable work of our Army and Navy Commission that has called forth these countless expressions of sincere intention to be faithful church members in the era of peace.

Our boys and girls have seen a great deal. There is

one *Servicemen's Messenger* published by one of our Wisconsin parishes. Its members are writing in from many points in the United States, from Guam, from Brazil, from Austria, from the Dachau Concentration Camp, from Iwo Jima, from Pisa, and from the Aleutians, from New Guinea, from Northern Burma, from two of our posts in the Philippines, from Venice, from Baguio on Luzon, from Netherlands Indies, from New Caledonia, from the Rhine, the East China Sea, the Marianas Islands, from Czechoslovakia, Puerto Rico, and Southampton. These boys have seen the world. They have been up against raw life, and they certainly will detect anything that is sham religion, or legalistic orthodoxy. But some of these young men have seen the degradation of heathenism, and they will also appreciate living in a Protestant country. They have all the preparation for leadership not only in the State, but also in the Church. They have experienced the blessedness of a faith grounded in the Word of God. They appreciate childhood religious instruction and the parochial school. A Church that has the spirit of our Lutheran fathers has nothing to fear and everything to hope from the men and women now returning to civil life.
G.

Best Sellers

Miss Alice P. Hackett, who is on the editorial staff of the *Publishers' Weekly,* has conducted a careful investigation into the matter of best sellers of *American books.* She reports that the best seller during the last fifty years was *In His Steps,* by Charles M. Sheldon. Edward Weeks, who investigated the same matter, arrived at the same conclusion. We call attention to this because it shows that religious books are still good sellers. It is well known that *throughout the world* the Bible is the best seller. Next to the Bible is that religious classic *Pilgrim's Progress.*

From the very beginning our Synod has devoted much time and the talents of able men to the spreading of good Christian literature. Everyone of us should now see to it that we make the most of the excellent material which our Church has provided for us and for our homes. Many of us know of some book which has decisively influenced our entire life. In everyone of our homes there ought to be books and periodicals which will help us and our family to fight the good fight of faith, to travel the narrow way, to associate with the best minds, to grow in grace, and to win the final victory.
S.

The Russian Mystery

Nothing is easier than to continue slogans which by much repetition have come to take on the nature of a fixed principle. And nothing requires less courage than to keep on whacking away at some system or organization which has acquired a bad record. We are thinking of Russia — Communist, atheistic Russia. But is it Communistic? Is it atheistic?

We are not discussing the Russia of 1918 or 1928 or 1938, but the Russia of 1945. Does it mean something or does it not that Russia has officially disavowed the Third International, the revolutionary principle which calls upon workers of the world to rise in revolution against their government?

When the Russians occupied Berlin, one of their first orders was that the churches be opened and people be given a chance to worship. It may be a political deal that the Soviets have recognized the Eastern Catholic Church; but why open the churches in Berlin? Three or four answers suggest themselves, but which is the true one? When victory over Germany was proclaimed, the first speech of Stalin expressed exultation that "the age-old struggle of the Slav people for their existence and independence has ended in victory over the German invaders and German tyranny." Does this mean that Russia today is a center of Slav civilization and power rather than a center of Communism?

The latest surprise has come from China. The Russian armies did not make common cause with the Chinese Communists, as everybody expected, but with the government in Chungking, and they promised to give up Manchuria and make a thirty-year treaty of peace with China. Where are the Bolshevist hordes which some of us saw rolling across China and engulfing in Red Communism all of Asia?

We make no predictions. What we maintain is that the prospect of a religious revival in Russia, a revival in which we may have a part, is by no means only a mirage seen by some people who want to see good come out of this dreadful World War II.
G.

That Loathsome Vice — Drunkenness

Benjamin Franklin was so disgusted at the increasing drunkenness among many of the American colonists that he decided to do something about it. He himself was a Rationalist. He therefore believed that you could reason a man out of this vice by showing him its contemptible folly. For this purpose he decided to gather all the names for drunkenness whereby people express their contempt for the drunkard. Some claim that from the speech of the tavern and the street he gathered more than a hundred names for this sin. But his success in curing the drunkard was negligible. However, he certainly was right in this, that drunkenness is one of those sins which even man's common sense and decency condemn. Even the world abhors drunkenness. Of a certain pagan emperor of Rome it is reported that when he wished to employ some man for an important work, he would first of all invite that man to dinner. During this meal he would ply his guest with food and especially with drink. If he noticed that the man liked drink, he would not employ him. In like manner, to this day railroads and others who wish their employees to be alert have their rules against drink. The Government also has attempted to reduce drunkenness. Even national prohibition has been tried.

The April number of the *Missouri Historical Review* (just out) devotes considerable space to the political agitation in Missouri in favor of prohibition. In the course of its review of this matter, it quotes these words of John Quincy Adams: "Self-government and not legislation should enforce the temperance cause." That is true, but who is going to give to man the power of self-government? The Word of God points out the true method of opposing drunkenness by telling us: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but *be filled with the Spirit,*" Eph. 5:18. In these words not only the vice is forbidden, but the antidote is pointed out: "Be filled with the Spirit." The Spirit comes to us through God's Word.

At the same time, in fighting against this sin also, man should avoid the occasion for it, he should avoid if possible all temptation to it. Everyone should know that much highly seasoned food, idleness, and neglect of proper hygiene predispose to this and other vices. But the attack upon sin dare not be merely negative. We must be about our Father's business. We must, like Jesus, practice good habits and customs. The First Psalm describes the man who can control himself. That must be our model.
S.

National Lutheran Business and Professional Federation

By WALTER R. BOETTCHER,* Washington, D. C.

Lutheran business and professional men of America — applying the experiences and lessons of a world at war — have founded a national federation pledged to apply the practices of modern business administration to the affairs of their Church and to promote active interest in clean, constitutional government.

The constitutional convention, held at Hotel Cleveland in Cleveland, Ohio, brought together Lutheran business and professional leaders from the larger Eastern und Middle Western cities, where intercity Lutheran groups have been organized and are thriving.

Purposes of the various city groups varied extensively, and types of organization differed materially.

Prominent among those present were Mr. George Eigel of St. Louis, legal counsel for the Missouri Synod; Mr. T. G. Eggers of St. Louis, executive secretary of the Lutheran Laymen's League; Dr. O. P. Kretzmann, president of Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.; Rev. H. W. Bartels of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, President of the English District of the Missouri Synod, and Rev. A. R. Kretzmann, Chicago clergyman.

Officers elected were Mr. Herman A. Polack of Cleveland, president; Mr. John Zink of Baltimore, first vice-president; Mr. William F. Meyer of Chicago, second vice-president; Martin H. Imm of St. Paul, Minn., third vice-president; Walter R. Boettcher of Washington, D. C., fourth vice-president; Carl F. Wolff of Chicago, secretary; and Norman F. Luekens of Cleveland, treasurer.

Mr. Zink, Mr. Meyer, and Mr. Boettcher were members of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Purposes of the federation, as stated in the constitution, are:

1. To foster Christian fellowship.
2. To bring about closer co-operation among members of the Lutheran churches.
3. To foster a public relations program.
4. To co-operate with other organizations in promotion of youth activities and charitable purposes.
5. To support and initiate movements to bring about better government and civic conditions.
6. To exchange information and ideas.

Provision is made for the acceptance of active members, which shall be various organized clubs; for associate members, who shall be individuals; and corresponding members. All, except the latter, must pay dues, may vote, and hold office. Dues of active members are not less than $1.00 per person in the individual club, and dues of associate members shall be at least $5.00 per annum.

Specific provision has been made that each active member or individual club shall retain its autonomy and that it shall not be bound by an action of the federation to which it has not subscribed.

The executive committee, composed of the officers, shall pass upon all members before admission. Local groups, containing members belonging to the various Lutheran synods, are eligible to join.

The federation shall begin functioning as soon as 10 active members have ratified the constitution and by-laws. At that time the executive committee will meet again and arrange a convention which will elect officers for the ensuing year and adopt a program.

Although no final action has been taken, some of the proposals under study by the executive committee include:

Promotion of intercity newspaper advertising, such as is carried on by the Lutheran Action Council, an official body in Washington, D. C., which represents Synodical Conference churches in Washington, near-by Virginia, and Maryland.

Promotion of an athletic program at Valparaiso University.

Promotion of a nation-wide publicity program, including a motion picture studio and bureau.

Establishment of a national employment office.

Publication of a national business and professional men's directory.

Assistance in creation of a nation-wide membership follow-up system, to keep in touch with Lutherans moving from one city to another and keep them with the Church.

To assist in combating juvenile delinquency.

Sponsorship of a program to stimulate interest in public affairs.

After the constitution and by-laws had been adopted, the convention called upon Mr. Eggers, veteran executive secretary of the Lutheran Laymen's League, who expressed the belief that his organization, composed of some 40,000 members, and the federation could work harmoniously. It was pointed out by other speakers that some 250,000 adult male members of the Synodical Conference are not identified with the Lutheran Laymen's League or any other similar Lutheran organization.

Until organization is completed, the secretarial work is being carried on by Carl F. Wolff, 77 W. Washington St., Chicago 2, Ill., who is executive secretary also of the Lutheran Business and Professional Group of Greater Chicago.

* Former White House Correspondent for the Associated Press.

Vacation Bible School

For a number of years we have been conducting vacation Bible schools. However, this summer we felt that a change in time would be better. As a rule, these classes are conducted at the close of the regular school term. After due consideration we set the date from July 30 to Aug. 10. This is about the middle of the vacation time. To our surprise we found that the interest was as good or even better than in previous years. A total of eighty-seven attended the classes. The course of study for the school had previously been planned and carried out in every detail. At nine o'clock we met in church for a short devotion. From 9:15 to 10:00 the religious lesson was taught by professional teachers. From 10:00 to 10:10 — a short recess. At 10:10 we began our handwork. This all had a direct connection with the lessons of the day. From 11:00 to 11:10 we sang our Lutheran hymns. This was followed by an educational moving picture. We feel that visual education has played an important part in the success of the school. Children from seven denominations were in attendance. On Friday evening we had an "Open House," which was attended by a large number of the parents. This gave us an opportunity to meet the parents and speak to them concerning our Christian day school.

St. Luke's has a fine day school and a rather large Sunday school, and we felt that gave us an opportunity for interesting the parents for either or both.

M. E. LORENZ

Intersynodical Stewardship Effort

In St. Paul, Minn., plans have already been formulated for the second annual Joint Lutheran Stewardship Effort, to be conducted during the fall months. The method to be followed will be along the same general lines as last year's effort, in which twenty-eight churches, representing six synods, participated. Eight of these were of the Missouri Synod. The campaign was under the general supervision of the Rev. Erwin Kurth of Fort Wayne, who visited St. Paul on several occasions to meet with pastors, vestry boards, and canvassers. The literature used was modeled after that of the Fort Wayne churches in their highly successful campaign of 1943. The Rev. J. Simonson (NLCA) acted as local chairman, the Rev. H. Lindemann (Mo.) as vice-chairman, Mr. G. Thompson (ALC) as secretary, and Mr. C. Dahlin (Aug.) as treasurer. The Rev. K. Karl (ALC) was chairman of the literature committee, and the Rev. C. V. Swenson (Aug.) of the committee on meetings.

Since there was a total of almost 15,000 communicants participating in the venture, the cost of printing the seven pieces of literature was very low. Congregations subscribed ten cents per member, which more than covered the cost of printing, publicity, meetings, and traveling expenses.

The specific objective of the campaign was to induce people to become tithers. The annual subscription blank used by all churches included a space in which the contributor might pledge ten per cent of his income to Church and charity. Seven hundred and nine of these tithing pledges were obtained. A total of $251,000 was subscribed, which represented an increase of slightly under $70,000 over the previous year. The effort provided an inspiring example of what united action can accomplish, and no argument is needed to persuade the same congregations to participate in the 1945 campaign.

St. Paul H. LINDEMANN

North Wisconsin District Convention

The District met at Redeemer Church, Eau Claire (the Rev. Herbert Juneau, pastor), June 18 to 22.

In the opening service, with Holy Communion, the Rev. G. Chr. Barth delivered the sermon. In the convention service the Rev. W. F. Ludwig called for a rededication of the Church to the principles of God's Word. The daily devotions with which the sessions were opened had as their central theme, "Saved to Serve." Memorial services were held for Pastors H. Neunaber, W. Williams, and J. Wuebben, and for 130 boys who gave their life in the service of our country.

Prof. Paul Koehneke read the essay on the topic "The Doctrine of the Call."

Vice-President Barth's report to the District included trailor missions, missions in the Canal Zone, South American missions, with special reference to the hardship of our workers there, the Lutheran School for the Deaf at Detroit, opportunities of our Church in Europe, and the persecutions of Lutherans in Russian-occupied territories. He also spoke about the educational agencies of the Church, our university, colleges, seminaries, and other institutions. Vice-President Barth pleaded with the delegates and pastors that they encourage our members to re-Christianize their homes and give more attention to the youth of our Church. He also referred to the work of the American Bible Society, pensions, salaries, and the coming centennial of Synod.

The District adopted a resolution that its Board of Directors collect about $15,000 for the establishment of a centrally located summer camp.

The District's goal for the next fiscal year is $165,000, of which $45,000 is to be used by the District and $120,000 is to be turned over to Synod.

The result of the elections was: President, the Rev. W. L. Kohn; First Vice-President, the Rev. E. H. Bertermann; Second Vice-President, the Rev. W. Plischke; Secretary, the Rev. O. H. Eifert; Treasurer, Mr. W. W. Schuster.

Thorp, Wis. F. H. SPRENGELER

Old Abbey Bell in Dunsmuir

An old abbey bell from England rang out the news of V-E Day at the Rustic Lutheran Chapel of Dunsmuir, Calif.

Lieutenant W. (Bill) Kamrath, commander of an LCT boat during the Normandy invasion, obtained the bell in Exeter and sent it to the church in Dunsmuir as his contribution to the Peace Thankoffering.

The bell, evidently of antique cast, originally came from Stratford on Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare. The old-style clapper, corroded with age and use, partially was reinforced by a navy welder to keep it in its hanging. It was brought across the Atlantic in the care of an LTC boatkeeper, who shipped it from New York to its California destination.

Tuesday, May 8, the bell was first rung here at 6:05 A. M., upon President

An Abbey Bell from Old England Presented to a California Parish

L. to r.: Lt. W. Bill Kamrath, Rev. Henry Rische

Truman's proclamation. Two mothers rang the bell, Mrs. Gretchen Knack, who is the mother of Lt. Kamrath's bride and has a father living in Germany, and Mrs. Helen Daw Lamb, who joined the church this month and whose son is with the occupation forces in Germany. HENRY RISCHE

A Women's Retreat

It was the first time that some of the ladies had been away from home when the first Lutheran Women's Missionary League Retreat was held July 25—27 at Cisco Beach Camp, Lake Geneva, Wis., under the auspices of the League's Northern Illinois District. Other Retreat guests were veteran travelers who had been in Europe and many parts of this continent. But for all who attended it was, quite evidently, a blessed pause in their busy lives.

For most of them it was the first time they had ever taken part in an evening devotion around the campfire or witnessed Galilean vespers as the pastor addressed them from a boat on the quiet bosom of the lake. Sixty women and 11 children were registered.

Speakers for the conference sessions included the Rev. E. H. Meinzen of Chicago, former missionary, who related some of the trials and triumphs of his fifteen years in India. Mrs. Edith M. Kenn, editor of *The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, told the Leaguers: "What Your Synod's L. W. M. L. Is Doing." Henry P. Van Dusen's new book about the "discovery" of Christian missions by the armed forces, *They Found the Church There*, was reviewed by the Rev. O. G. Thieme of Chicago. The Rev. W. J. Danker of West Chicago conducted discussions on "How Your L. W. M. L. Works in Your Church, Circuit, and District."

A feature known as "The Retreat Hour" proved particularly refreshing and inspiring. Here the ladies themselves spoke briefly on a wide variety of Christian topics, while Mrs. Arthur Preisinger and Mrs. Hugo Bloedel, president and corresponding secretary of the district, presided.

The Retreat was launched with the co-operation of the camp committee of the Northern Illinois District Walther League, Mr. Albert H. Miller, director, and Mr. W. M. Mirow, business manager. They also conducted a two weeks' children's camp, with 175 guests each week, and a Walther League week, attended by almost 200.

W. J. DANKER

Home Out of Fiery Trials

Never have I seen a group of people looking so tired, so worn and spent as the group of missionaries coming off the *S. S. Gripsholm* in New York on August 2 and then assembled for a service of thanksgiving the next day in the chapel of the Metropolitan Lutheran Inner Mission in New York. Their tiredness was accentuated, of course, by the wearisome business of getting off the ship under wartime conditions, the interminable standing-in-line, all the running about and looking after this or the other, baggage inspection, censorship of books and papers, health inspection, passport inspection, and what not. More than that, the excitement of finally reaching their homeland and the uncertainty as to where they would stay and whether travel accommodations were to be found must have been weighing heavy upon them.

The *S. S. Gripsholm* carried over 600 persons of missionary groups, together with some 360 Greeks that were being repatriated and hundreds of Chinese and Indian students, altogether some 1,500 passengers. In order to facilitate the arrangement of places to stay and for travel accommodations, handled by the Red Cross, and in particular to greet incoming missionaries as the representative of the home Church, the undersigned was sent to New York by the Board. Fortunately arrangements could be made for accommodations for all of this group, quite an accomplishment in view of the fact that on the same day 24,000 soldiers landed in New York. The Secretary had been in the homes of every one of these missionaries in the mission field and knew all of them personally, and so it was a very fine gesture for the Board to have him meet this group and greet them at their re-entry into the homeland.

These missionaries had all served in India for longer than the usual period and under frequently very trying circumstances and in the face of many difficulties. The heat in India, together with many other things, will gradually wear a person down. One of the missionaries sat with us in a quiet conversation, and while we felt the warm and sticky air of New York to some extent, we were not really uncomfortable, but this missionary had beads of perspiration on his upper lip and kept wiping his forehead and his face. The pastor who

was with me remarked about it afterwards and said this was surely an indication of the manner in which these people had gradually been worn down by the continual heat of India, which does have an enervating effect.

One of the missionaries to step off this ship was the Rev. John Given Steinhoff. At the earliest opportunity he called up his parents in Chicago by long distance and then said to me, "It surely was good to hear their voices again. Eight years is a long time." Eight years *is* a long time. Rev. Steinhoff was the last of our missionaries to be sent out from this country. In eight years it was not possible to send out a new missionary. Now, by the grace of God, a new worker has reached the shores of India, the Rev. Elmer Griesse, and this fall we hope to send out a few additional new missionaries.

Besides the man just mentioned, our missionaries from India to arrive on this ship were the following: the Rev. and Mrs. Geo. Schroeder and two children; the Rev. and Mrs. D. S. Stevenson and six children; the Rev. and Mrs. B. Strasen and two children; the Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Hattendorf and two children; the Rev. and Mrs. R. P. Sieving and two children; the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Luedtke and three children; the Rev. and Mrs. M. L. Wyneken and four children; the two oldest daughters of Missionary H. Earl Miller; Miss Angela Rehwinkel; and from China: Mrs. G. K. Wenger and three children, and Miss Gertrude Simon.

As noted, Mrs. Wenger and Miss Simon had come from China and joined this group of missionaries for the trip to America. Miss Olive Gruen had also come with them from China to India, but she remained in India, assisting with the school work at Kodaikanal. She hopes to return to China at the earliest moment. These women and children left China last winter upon the repeated urging of officials that in view of the Japanese advance at that time it would be wise for women and children to get out of possible harm's way. Also for the sake of the health of the Wenger children and for other considerations it was quite proper for these folks to leave China at that time. Rev. Wenger, who remained at his post, and Missionaries Kurt Voss, Paul Martens, Herbert Hinz, and our valiant group of national pastors and evangelists are trying to carry on until reinforcements come.

Plans for the activity of these missionaries during their furlough have not been completed. Some of them may pursue further studies. One or the other may be able to take over temporary work in a congregation in the absence of the regular pastor. Some of them may do extensive lecturing. In some cases, where health needs to be rebuilt, the program will call for just that.

The home Church raises its voice in thanksgiving to the Lord for having kept these our mission workers through the trying years, for having brought them safely back for a term to their homeland. May God now grant them a blessed and profitable furlough period, with rebuilding of strength and vigor and with a refreshed spirit, so that in due time they can return with renewed enthusiasm for bringing the Gospel to these far distant fields, which must remain shrouded in heathen darkness unless we lift up the torch of the divine Word over there.

O. H. SCHMIDT

Lutheran Men's Association (Adelaide)

From "down under," via *The Australian Lutheran,* comes news of the L. M. A., the counterpart of our L. L. L. By resolution of the South Australian District the Association "is to be given the status of an authorized and properly constituted auxiliary body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia." It sponsored a "Choral Reformation Festival" in the Adelaide Town Hall on Sunday, Oct. 29, 1944. A capacity audience found the program most impressive. A number of very interesting essays were submitted during the year by both theologians and laymen to fair attendances. "Endeavors were made during the year to bring to finality the possible establishment of Lutheran Boy Scout troops within the South Australian District."

The same issue of *The Australian Lutheran* also reports the death of Flt. Sgt. Everard Graebner, who lost his life in an aircraft accident on April 8. He was a son of Pastor R. M. Graebner and a grandson of Dr. C. F. Graebner of the seminary in Unley. K. K.

Institutional Mission Opportunities

The ninth class of boys was confirmed on June 13 at the Ramsey County School at Highwood, near Saint Paul, Minn., by Pastor A. E. Frey, Lutheran institutional missionary. This was the largest class at this school received into membership in the Lutheran Church and consisted of eleven boys, eight of whom were baptized at this occasion while the other three had been baptized in infancy. The missionary reports commendable co-operation from Mr. George Reif, superintendent of the school and from the entire staff. Classes were held from October up to the day of confirmation. The confirmation service was held in the dining room of the institution, which was made as churchly as possible by a temporary altar and large bouquets of white flowers. All the boys in the school, more than fifty in number, the teaching staff, the personnel, representatives of the Lutheran Mission Society's Board, members of the Mission Auxiliary, some parents and other relatives of the boys were in attendance.

The fact that eight boys of this class of eleven came from homes where Baptism had been neglected emphasizes the missionary opportunities offered to our Church at the Ramsey County School for Boys, an institution of correction. This school is one of thirteen institutions served regularly by the Lutheran Mission Society of the Twin Cities through its three missionaries, Pastor A. E. Frey, Saint Paul, Pastor Walter Melahn, Minneapolis, and Pastor W. P. Clausen, Hopkins. The latter serves Glen Lake Sanatorium. CORR.

St. Louis Lutheran Business Women Activities

As summer draws to a close, the St. Louis Lutheran Business Women are again busy making plans to conduct Saturday afternoon clubs at our Lutheran City Missions. The religious program of Bible lessons, hymns, and memory work has already been selected, and the program of crafts, sewing, and woodwork will be during the coming weeks and made ready for the opening of the clubs in September.

The clubs are conducted each Saturday afternoon for white and colored children at Good Shepherd Mission and for colored children at Ressurrection. One hour is devoted to religious training and one hour to crafts, and it is hoped that with God's help and guidance we may supplement the children's training and assist them to become fine Christian men and women, able and willing to take their place and accept their responsibility as citizens in the community.

About forty voluntary workers are needed each year to take care of the children under the able leadership and supervision of Miss Bertha Kaiser, Miss Edna Nofles and Mrs. P. E. Kretzmann. Many volunteer workers who were with us during the past year will again take part, but some additional workers are needed. The clubs will continue active throughout the fall, winter, and spring months, and there is a standing invitation to anyone interested to visit the clubs any Saturday afternoon.

This endeavor is the Lutheran Business Women's method of helping to decrease juvenile delinquency in our city. By putting the highest priority on children and giving them some of the attention and care they need and deserve, but which they frequently fail to get in their homes, we hope to do our part in bringing about a better world of tomorrow.

LURETTA KUNZMAN

St. Louis, Mo.

Japanese-American Mission

"I went to Sunday school upon the invitation of my best friend at school, in the third grade." Thus Candidate George Shibata relates his entry into the Lutheran Church. "I attended Sunday school with regularity, was confirmed by Pastor Frank A. Haedicke of the Church of the Redeemer, Oakland, Calif." George was born of parents coming from Japan, his father being a Presbyterian, his mother an Episcopalian. He was baptized by a Pres-

George Shibata

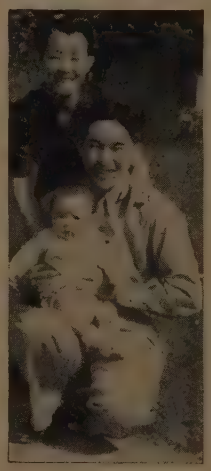
byterian pastor. At the age of three he, together with his parents, visited Japan and returned to the U. S. A. at the age of four. He entered our California Concordia College, graduating from the high school department in 1938, and attended the University of California for one year, majoring in mechanical engineering. While he was attending the University of California, his conscience urged him to prepare for the ministry for the sake of his people. He returned to our California Concordia College and graduated in 1941. He entered Concordia Seminary at St. Louis and graduated in 1945. His vicarage he spent in our Lutheran Indian Mission in Wisconsin. For seven years he had attended a Japanese language school.

Hayao Shishino

When the College of Presidents met to assign the calls to the members of the theological graduates, there was seemingly no room, no place, for Candidate Shibata. The Board of Home Missions took matters in hand. The war still raging, there was no place for him in the Orient. Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands were considered, but there were no possibilities to get the necessary transportation. Could he possibly serve his fellow men in one of the Japanese internment camps? The doors were closed.

The Lord opens the door. But the Lord had quietly opened a door and prepared a place for him in a most wonderful manner. In the late months of 1943 two young Japanese-Americans came to Minneapolis, Toke Yonekawa and Hayao Shishino, seeking employment at one of the hotels. Here one of our members, Mr. Daniel Schoof, member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, assisted the young men to get acquainted with their work and surroundings. One day Mr. Schoof was asked by the young men, "What is it that makes you different from the other fellows that work here? You do not curse; you do not participate in smutty jokes." "That is," said Mr. Schoof, "because I am a Christian." They could not understand why a Christian should be different. But Mr. Schoof explained.

This acquaintance grew into a real friendship. Toke and Hi accompanied their friend to church. Often they visited his home, where they found Christ as the unseen Guest and Christian warmth and friendship. This mission work, begun by *living the Gospel,* brought the young men to Pastor H. F. Schweigert and resulted in the baptism of the two questioners.



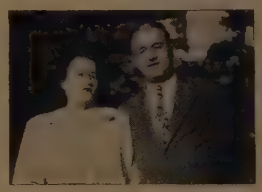
Mr. and Mrs. Toke Yonekawa and Son, Wayne David

Having found Christ, appreciating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they could not but tell others of what they had found. In April, 1944, Toke was married in St. Peter's Church to Miss Tae Monden, a devout Christian, whose letters of encouragement contributed much to the success of this work. When she heard that her fiancé had accepted Christ as his Savior, she wrote: "I am happy to hear that you have accepted Christ and that you are going to be baptized. Now even if you have to go into the armed service, even if this service demands your life, I can look forward to that happily, for I know that you know and believe John 3:16, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'" Feb. 11, 1945, their baby son, Wayne David, was baptized. Toke is off with the armed forces in the service of our Government.

Mr. Hayao Shishino became a voting member of St. Peter's Church. One day Mr. and Mrs. Schoof invited some of their Japanese friends, among them Mr. Hayao Shishino and his elder brother, to join them on an outing to one of the near-by lakes. While swimming in the lake, the brother suddenly sank and was drowned. "My brother, my brother!" cried Hayao. "He is dead; and how terrible, he is not baptized!" In grief he sank to the ground, when Mrs. Schoof said to him, "Did you not tell John of Jesus, his Savior? Did he not listen to you? Was he not willing to accept it?" When Hayao said that he did, Mrs. Schoof said that she too told him of Jesus, that she had every reason to believe that he had accepted Him as his Savior. And having accepted Jesus, she said, we can hope that the brother is saved. These words were a source of real comfort to him.

The ceaseless testimony of these two young men and the untiring efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Schoof, the Christian love of St. Peter's Congregation, the work of Pastor Schweigert, have been the humble means which God has used to bring the Gospel to the attention and into the hearts of an ever increasing number of American-born Japanese.

When on Easter day a group of young Japanese had been invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Schoof, a Japanese miss suddenly rushed to Mrs. Schoof with the Sunday morning newspaper in hand, saying: "Mrs. Shoof, I want to make you happy," and when she answered that she was already happy, the miss continued, "Well, then, I wish to make you even more happy. Do you see this picture?" She had taken it from the Easter morning paper. "This picture, the crucifixion of Jesus, I found in the Easter morning papers when I still lived in San Francisco. It enraged me so much that I got up early to get that picture, to tear it up before members of the family would see it. And now, Mrs. Schoof, I find that that Jesus is my Savior. I want to be a Christian." And she too was one that was baptized and received into the membership of the Church. On that Easter morn in 1945 Jennie Takai, age 6, was baptized. On June 17, eight Japanese adults were baptized and welcomed into our midst. On July 26, Chaplain Klausler of Fort Snelling, serving also a large group of Japanese-Americans, joined in holy wedlock Tad Sugiyama and Miss Anne Watanabi. These too were baptized at St. Peter's Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Schoof

Thus this mission effort, begun by one living the Gospel and by his testimony, brought fifteen to Christ, their Savior, and brought the Gospel to the attention of approximately 100 Japanese-Americans.

When a student at the Seminary, Shibata was requested to preach to this group of Japanese Americans. He preached to them at two of the confirmation services, his travel costs being financed by the Minnesota District. Quickly the Lord prepared a place for Candidate Shibata in the midst of his people. The Board of Home Missions, in co-operation with the National Planning Council, has now appointed Candidate Shibata to continue the work begun by St. Peter's Congregation and Pastor Schweigert under the supervision of the Minnesota District Board of Directors.

It was a day which will long be remembered at St. Peter's Church when Candidate George Shibata and his bride, Miss Sachiye Takahashi, were joined in holy wedlock in the beautifully decorated sanctuary of the church. There were eight attendants. The Rev. Bert Streufert, a close friend of the groom from Seminary days, preached the sermon. On Aug. 5, the Walther Leaguers assembled at Emmaus voted to make the Japanese Mission of the Twin Cities one of their projects. An

Baptismal and Confirmation Class

offering of $56 was lifted to be used in this mission.

Never before in the history of our Church were we privileged to minister to so large a number of the Japanese race. Four Japanese-American soldiers, members of St. Peter's Church, are in the Orient. May God bless their testimony among the Japanese. May we grasp every opportunity here and everywhere to bring the Gospel to the Japanese.

May the day dawn when our messengers of peace can also go to Japan, that the inhabitants of these islands too may know and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and their Redeemer.

F. C. STREUFERT
Secretary of Missions

Aug. 20, 1945

From a Pocket Notebook

Inasmuch is the title of a new magazine published at Seattle, Washington, 307 Medical Arts Bldg., by the Associated Lutheran Welfare. It is edited by the executive secretary, Rev. R. Spannaus. . . . Chaplain Walter C. Daib sends us the printed program of the five-hundredth anniversary observance of St. John's Church at Ansbach, Bayern, produced entirely by amateur musicians from this congregation. The program contained organ and vocal numbers by Bach, H. L. Habler, Vivaldi, and others. A printed note says: "Collection is to be devoted to demolished churches." . . . In Texas, President E. A. Heckmann endorses the plan of the Walther League for the purchase of a permanent camp near La Grange. Beginning with Arcadia the acquisition of Walther League Camps has been all to the good, also financially. . . . At the convention of the Texas District in Trinity Church, Riesel, the 325 delegates were served with meals by 40 ladies. The daily baking included fifty-five dozen doughnuts and sixty pies. Knowing Texan hospitality, this column is willing to assert that there were 60 PIES. . . . We note that Rev. Phillip Lange's *Approach to the Unchurched* has been distributed to every family of the two congregations in Lebanon, Oreg. . . . Mysterious business in the South Dakota District. The LUTHERAN WITNESS Supplement says: "Zion Church at Pembroke sold its parsonage in Lebanon to St. Paul's Congregation of Lebanon." . . . Pastor D. D. Dautenhahn says that there are 262 agencies in Dallas organized to serve veterans, but not one offers a religious program. . . . The Southern District in a few months raised more for the P. T. O. than it did in two years for Synod, with only a little less budget receipts than last year for the same period. . . . A neat combination of a paper cross, 12×8 inches, and container for collection envelope for building fund has been designed by Pastor A. Steinke of Trinity Lutheran Church at Islip on Long Island, N. Y. . . . Work at most of our Lutheran service centers continues unabated. A lively sheet is published every month for the Lutheran boys at Hattiesburg, Miss., by the Service Pastor Rev. Fred T. Eggert. . . . This column has no tears for the "good old days," synodically speaking, because there were none,—not in memory of living men. We might fill the rest of the page on this theme, but will refer only to the place which the adult Bible class holds in our Synod compared with twenty and thirty years ago. We have just had a glimpse of the class conducted by Prof. Hilmar C. Krueger in Our Savior Church, Cincinnati. Discussions originated in the Bible class are continued in social groups on Sunday afternoon and evenings. Mr. Krueger teaches Medieval History in the University of Cincinnati. . . . The story of the first Lutheran Women's Missionary League Retreat held by any District, told on another page, adds another *E Pennant* to the Northern Illinois District. . . . There are today in the U. S. Chaplains' Service 819 Lutheran pastors. The largest representation is that of the U. L. C. (304), followed by the Mo. Synod (233), and by the Norwegian Lutheran Church (122). In 1918 the Lutheran Church had 74 chaplains in military service. . . . We have not often been touched so deeply by stories of the love hearers have for their pastors as by that told in the Central Illinois Supplement regarding the return of Pastor Walter Obermeyer after several months of serious illness to the Peoria State Hospital, one of the institutions he is serving. The patients there presented him with many bouquets of garden flowers (also some of red and white clover), an assortment of bottled sodas and root beer, candy bars, gum, cookies, a tie, and 50 cents in cash. A sermon might be written on the transvaluation of values in the Kingdom of God. . . . Dr. Wm. Dallmann sends us this from the column of George Sokolsky, July 27: "Most of the world has been suffering a retreat from fundamental morals. Possibly it is the inevitable product of higher criticism, of the nineteenth century attack upon the Bible, leading in the twentieth to a 'debunking' of God." . . . "At the University of Minnesota a few weeks ago I knew that the eight girls who walked through the campus that morning with Bibles under their arms WERE NOT MISSOURI SYNOD LUTHERANS by the very fact that they carried Bibles." Rev. R. W. Hahn of the Student Service Commission. . . . Dr. F. C. Streufert, mission secretary, will observe the 50th anniversary of his ordination on Sept. 15. G.

Letters from Readers

GERMAN RUINS AND AMERICAN GRAVES

Receipt of the LUTHERAN WITNESS of July 19, 1945, prompts me to write a few lines.

The picture on the cover was a reminder of my own trip to Eisleben about two months ago. Every opportunity to visit the historic sites has been utilized. Chaplain Fred Miller has covered the subject quite completely in his letter to you. It might be added that the university at Erfurt is completely in ruins. The Lutherhaus and the Bachhaus in Eisenach are badly shaken. At Worms the wall and doorway through which Dr. Luther escaped have not been touched.

While in Munich I spent a little time with Cardinal Faulhaber, who stated that the Nazis replied to his denunciatory pastoral letters by imprisoning other clergymen under his jurisdiction rather than by confining him. That, he said, made his opposition difficult.

About two weeks ago we began a tour of army cemeteries in Holland, Belgium, France, and Luxembourg for the purpose of photographing individual graves with a view to sending the pictures to the bereaved. Seeing the crosses row on row it was brought home very forcefully that all in this life is so much vanity, and were it not for the blessed hope of the Resurrection, the great hosts of the bereaved must certainly despair entirely.

ARTHUR M. WEBER, *Chaplain*
Muehlheim, Germany

AUGUSTANA AND THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

The July 17 issue of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS has just been received, and I note your editorial "The Augustana Synod and the Federal Council."

I did not expect the leaders of the Missouri Synod to applaud the action of the Augustana Synod at its recent convention in regard to the relationship to the Federal Council of Churches. I do not desire to enter into any further discussion of the matter. It is now in the lap of the National Lutheran Council, which will take action one way or the other at its meeting in January, 1946. However, I do wish to call attention to a misstatement in your editorial in which you use the words "consultative membership." That is not a quotation from my report, nor is it a quotation from the resolution of the Augustana Synod. Instead of "membership" the word "relationship" was used. That does make a difference.

It would not be possible for the National Lutheran Council to hold membership in the Federal Council. The Federal Council is composed of Churches. It might be possible for the National Lutheran Council to establish a consultative relationship on some basis whereby the National Lutheran Council might act as an agent for the eight co-operating bodies

in matters of common agreement. Thus there might at times be a united Protestant expression and action. Furthermore, it might be well to have a meeting ground for consultations, giving the Lutheran Church opportunity to make its influence felt. Be that as it may, I anticipate that there will be much discussion and many joint deliberations before final action is taken on the proposal of the Augustana Synod.

P. O. BERSELL
President Augustana Synod
Minneapolis

Miscellaneous

Ordinations and Installations

(Authorized by the Proper Officials)

Ordained:

10. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 5): *Cand. Frederick Danker* in St. Paul's Church, Chicago, Ill., by W. J. Danker. — 11. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 12): *Cand. Karl W. Riehl* in St. Peter's Church, Stratford, Ont., Can., by G. Walter Schoedel. — 12. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 19): *Cand. Edwin T. Heyne, Jr.*, in St. Paul's Church, Truman, Minn., by E. T. Heyne, Sr.

Ordained and Installed:

Jud. Sun. (March 18): *Cand. Carl Wallis* in St. John's Church, Bakersfield, Calif., as missionary in the California and Nevada District by J. F. Bauermeister. — 8. Sun. p. Tr. (July 22): *Cand. Ralph Justin Pomeroy* as assistant pastor in Bethany Congregation, Chicago, Ill., by Karl G. Schlerf. — 10. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 5): *Cand. Earl Weis* in Concordia Congregation, Sikeston, Mo., by G. B. Seboldt. — 11. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 12): *Cand. H. H. Mirly* in Christ Congregation, Jacob, Ill., by F. J. Schneider. — *Cand. Waldo Werning* ordained in St. John's Church, Newhall, Iowa, by O. Nieting and installed on 12. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 19) in Zion Congregation near Lockwood, Mo., by J. H. Gassner. — 12. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 19): *Cand. J. W. Jackson* in Grace Congregation, Smithville, Tex., by E. R. Rathgeber. — *Cand. Roland A. Jank* in Immanuel Congregation, Amherst, Nebr., by E. W. Scheck. — *Cand. Donald Schumm* in St. Peter's Congregation, Three Rivers, Mich., by W. T. Schalm.

Dedication

On the 10. Sun. p. Tr. (Aug. 5): The new pipe organ of St. John's Congregation, *Bridgeton, N. J.* (Herbert A. Dick), was dedicated to the service of God.

Anniversary

On the 9. Sun. p. Tr. (July 29): Emmanuel Congregation, *Dearborn, Mich.* (H. F. Hensick), celebrated the 50th anniversary of its organization.

Conference Meetings

Pastors':

Pittsburgh District Pastoral Conference, Sept. 17 (1:30 P. M.)—19, Pittsburgh, Pa., Saint Thomas, 3164 Sorento St., N. S., Pastor H. K. Dietrich. Confessional address: Martens (McLaughlin). Pastoral sermon (Monday evening, 7:30): Halama (Fickenscher). Essays: Exegesis (Eph. 2:8): Mensing; Ezra and Nehemiah: McLaughlin; Visual Aids in Church Work: Bielenberg; Church Fathers and Their Times: Sommerfeld; Church and the Community: E. Malte; Self-Communion by the Pastor: Goerss; Pastor Conducting the Morning Service: Sander; Shall Colored Congregations be Received into Membership of the Eastern District? E. Malte.

CARL B. SCHLUTZ, *Sec.*

Yellowbank, Sept. 18 (9:30 A. M.), 19, Shible Twp., Appleton, Minn. (Paul Gierke, pastor). Thorough discussion of the Doctrinal Affirmation, to be led by individual pastors as assigned. Absence or presence to local pastor.

JOHN ZIMMERMANN, *Pastor*

Western (South Wisconsin District), Sept. 24 (10:00 A. M.)—26, Lutheran Retreat, Wautoma, Rev. G. Pape, pastor. Communion service, Monday 8 P. M. Sermon: Wangerin (Treu, Thusius). Papers: 1 Cor. 6:12 ff.: M. Huebner. The Evangelical Ministry in the Book of Exodus: Clausing. Conversion an Act of God: F. H. Eggers. The Diversity of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Burhop. Matt. 18:15-18: Rubel. The Difference Between Law and Gospel: Schinnerer.

Presence or absence to host pastor before 21st, please. H. I. NAUMANN, *Secretary*

East Park Region, Oct. 2 (10 A. M.), 3, Eden Valley, Minn. Exegesis (Pastoral Letter): G. Eschenbacher. Doctrinal Affirmation: E. A. Dicke. Die Rachepsalmen: W. E. Rohe. Controversy Over Christ's Descent Into Hell (Art. IX. Form. of Concord): H. J. Krieg. Conducting a Registration for Holy Communion: E. Eifert. Rehabilitation of the Christian Home — When Peace Comes — The Pastor at Work on the Postwar Battleline: to be assigned.

Communion service, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 8 P. M. (K. Heuchert-W. Rohe). Please notify the undersigned of intention to be present or absent.

HUGH J. KRIEG, *Sec.*

Blue Valley Conference of the Southern Nebraska District, Oct. 8 (9:30 A. M.) and 9, Beatrice, Nebr., St. Paul's Church, 8th and High Sts., Pastor J. Timken. Pastoral service on Monday evening, the Rev. A. H. Mette, speaker. A. G. AHLMAN, *Sec.*

West Missouri, Norborne, Mo., Oct. 23 (10:00 A. M.) to 25 (3:00 P. M.). Trinity Congregation (O. G. Tiemann, pastor) will be the host. Presence or absence to the local pastor. Particulars will be sent to all members in conference program. O. G. TIEMANN, *Sec.*

Nominations

The following have been duly nominated for the position of Librarian at Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska:

Mr. Wm. Baer, Manhattan, Kans., by Zion Congregation, Shelton, Nebr.
Rev. Walter Buhl, Beaverton, Oreg.: Hope Congregation, Milwaukee, Wis.; Trinity Congregation, Hillsboro, Oreg.
Rev. J. F. Choitz, Detroit, Mich.: St. John's Congregation, Seward, Nebr.
Mr. H. J. W. Koester, York, Nebr.: Emmanuel Congregation, York, Nebr.
Rev. Luther Poellot, Dallas, Tex.: Trinity Congregation, Lincoln, Nebr.; Second Ave. Congregation of Sterling, Ill.
Teacher Orville Richter, Chicago, Ill.: Zion Congregation, Garland, Nebr.
Mr. Martin Schmitt, River Forest, Ill.: Zion Congregation, Kearney, Nebr.
Rev. Ralph Schuessler, Chicago, Ill.: Jefferson Park Congregation, Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Hilmar Sieving: Zion Congregation, Hastings, Nebr.; St. Peter's Congregation, Deshler, Nebr.
Rev. L. C. Wuerffel, Iowa City, Iowa: Immanuel Congregation, Columbus, Nebr.
Rev. Curtis Stephan, Bloomington, Ill.: Bethany Congregation, Chicago, Ill.

The Electoral College meets at Seward on Oct. 17. Any and all communications regarding these candidates should be in the hands of the undersigned before that date.

I. C. HEINICKE, *Chairman*
Board of Control

Seward, Nebr.
Sept. 1, 1945

Educational Institutions

Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville, New York, will begin its fall terms according to the following schedule: *The High School* — Sept. 11, Registration of New Students; Sept. 12, Registration of Returning Students; Sept. 13, Classes Begin. *The Junior College* — Sept. 18, Freshman Registration; Sept. 19—21, Freshman Orientation; Sept. 22, Sophomore Registration; Sept. 24, Classes Begin.

Further information may be secured by addressing Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville 8, New York.

ALBERT E. MEYER, *Acting President*

Wanted

By a small Mission Congregation a used Communion set. Anyone having one for sale please contact the undersigned.

REV. J. B. NIEMAN
Box 371, Plentywood, Mont.

A discarded *altar* and *pulpit* for a church being remodeled at Foley, Minn. Size of church 26 by 54.

REV. W. E. ROHE, R. 2, Sauk Rapids, Minn.

Communion set for a congregation. Will buy, or will pay transportation if one is offered as a gift to a small congregation. Wanted *also a private Communion set*. Write —

LYMON E. JONES, *Pastor*
320 Fifth St.,
Petaluma, Calif.

A mission congregation is in need of an altar and a pulpit. A. DEYE
904 Seventh St. N. E.
Rochester, Minnesota

Changes of Address

Rev. Robert Biel, 506 E. Jefferson St., Clinton, Mo.
Rev. L. W. Blankenbuehler, 106 Greenway Dr., Grove Park, Portsmouth, Va.
Rev. Orville A. Buntrock, 314 E. Eighth St., Little Rock, Ark.
Rev. O. T. Diefenbach, 100 Union Lake Rd., R. 8, Pontiac, Mich.
Rev. Roland Gabbert, 208 Cherry Ave., Hampton, Va.
Rev. E. H. H. Gade, Jr., R. 1, Emerald, Wis.
Prof. J. Henry Gienapp, 952 N. 34th St., Milwaukee 8, Wis.
Rev. Lloyd H. Goetz, 208 Point Basse Ave., Nekoosa, Wis.
Rev. H. P. Greif, P. em., Box 136, Williamsburg, Iowa
Rev. A. C. Hahn, R. 1, Stryker, Ohio
Rev. L. M. Hieber, Pecatonica, Ill.
Rev. Walter H. Huber, 811 Nadine Ave., Houston 9, Tex.
Rev. Theo. Iben, R. 1, Britton, Mich.
Rev. F. Kersten, 1276 St. Anthony Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.
Rev. W. A. Kimberley, 2513 Princess St. Rd., Wilmington, N. C.
Rev. Arthur G. Kuecker, New Haven, Mo.
Rev. Wesley J. Kuhn, 311 S. Madison, El Dorado, Ark.
Rev. Hugo W. Larson, R. R., Irene, S. Dak.
Rev. A. R. Lueders, R. 2, New Haven, Ind.
Rev. Arthur W. Meyer, 1319 W. Sixth St., Davenport, Iowa
Rev. Otto H. Moeller, R. 2, Cornelius, Oreg.
Rev. Carl F. Nitz, 9012 N. E. Prescott, Portland 13, Oreg.
Rev. Floyd Possehl, 9135 96th St., Woodhaven 21, L. I., N. Y.
Rev. Ewald Recks, Box 228, Poteau, Okla.
Prof. Arthur C. Repp, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis 5, Mo.
Rev. O. C. Riemer, R. 2, Hemlock, Mich.
Rev. H. W. Robbert, P. em., 712 S. Fourth St., Norfolk, Nebr.
Rev. F. A. Scharfenberg, P. em., 5143 N. Hollywood Ave., Milwaukee 11, Wis.
Rev. A. L. Scheidt, 720 N. Ninth St., Vincennes, Ind.
Rev. K. F. Schroeder, Venedy, Ill.
Rev. R. E. Schulz, 1024 S. Fifth East, Salt Lake City 4, Utah
Rev. A. J. Stoskopf, Holland, Minn.
Prof. John F. Sullivan, Ph. D., Concordia College, 3126 W. Kilbourn Ave., Milwaukee 8, Wis.
Rev. Fred W. Thomae, 34 Sterling St., Pawtucket, R. I.
Rev. Ernst Walther, P. em., 2515 Rodd St., Midland, Mich.
Rev. Paul Weinhold, Whittemore, Iowa
Rev. Earl E. Weis, 801 Park Ave., Sikeston, Mo.
Rev. L. M. Westerkamp, 12509 27th Ave., N. E., Seattle 55, Wash.
Rev. Albert C. Young, 624 Merrill St., Corona, Calif.
Rev. E. C. Zimmermann, 6321 San Bonita Ave., St. Louis 5, Mo.
M. C. Ahlschwede, R. 2, Shelton, Nebr.
A. L. Bueter, 1012 Sixth St., Merrill, Wis.
Walter M. Deffner, 832 N. Grand, W., Springfield, Ill.
John Ehlers, 2013 Osgood St., Pittsburgh 14, Pa.
Aug. F. Gerken, 28082 Detroit Rd., Westlake, Ohio
W. J. Handrich, Young America, Minn.
Kenneth L. Kraemer, Matteson, Ill.
Harold Meier, 304 W. Adams, Tipton, Ind.
Norman Schmidt, R. 1, Beatrice, Nebr.
E. E. Wittmus, Palmyra, Mo.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

Official Organ of the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States

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All official announcements, acknowledgments, notices, also books for review, should reach Prof. Theodore Graebner, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis 5, Mo., on the Monday of the week preceding date of issue.

All church news should be sent to Prof. George V. Schick, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis 5, Mo.

All obituaries should be sent to Prof. W. G. Polack, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis 5, Mo.

All reports of ordinations, installations, dedications, and jubilees should be sent to the Statistical Bureau, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo.

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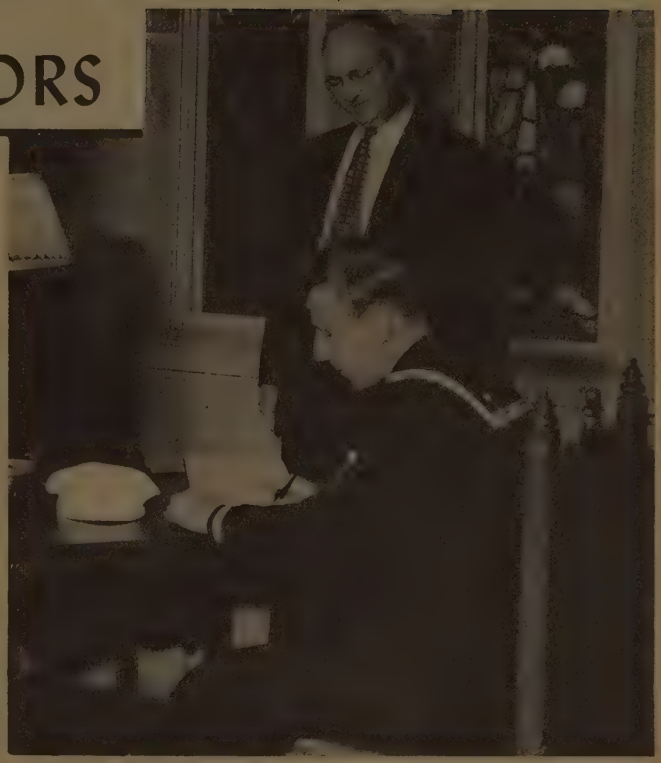
Work Ahead for 1000 KEY PASTORS



THE train pulled into Memphis at midnight for a brief stop-over. Two Lutheran boys hastily thumbed through their Directory of Key Pastors and made for the nearest phone.

Twenty minutes later Pastor Victor Brugge was at the station. The soldiers presented their Communion cards; the pastor talked to the depot agent. Then, in the privacy of the agent's office, a solemn Communion service took place. As the boys said good-by to the pastor, the Savior's word "Shed for your sins" rang clear in their hearts, and they left with new courage.

The end of the war has not lessened the work of our key pastors. Increased leisure is bringing greater temptations for the men of our large army at home and abroad. Key pastors will intensify their efforts with the serviceman away from home, comforting him, helping him with his problems, and ministering to his needs.

In Canada several key pastors are regularly making trips of one to two thousand miles to serve our servicemen.

Pastor Karl Graesser's members meet servicemen, who do not know the city, at the Y.M.C.A. in Providence, R. I., and bring them to their church. The basement of St. Paul's Church in Battle Creek, Michigan, is a service center on Sunday afternoons and evenings. After the men have had dinner with members, the Walther Leaguers take them out for parties, hayrides, sleighing, skiing, tobogganing. The women serve a lunch when they return; then there are games, singing, and an evening devotion.

"It's human," our uniformed young people say of this breath of Christian friendliness in strange cities.

The Army and Navy Commission of Our Synod, l. to r.: O. Adelbert Sauer, Secretary; J. W. Behnken, Karl W. Schleede, Otto C. Rentner, Paul L. Dannenfeldt, Chairman, Frederick C. Proehl, Paul Mehl, Executive Secretary, Paul Schulz, Theodore H. Schlake, Treasurer, Otto E. Sohn.

A NEW Testament and a prayer book are the rations which keep a Christian serviceman alive, because they bring Christ, the Bread of Life. Even now, after peace has come, over a million pieces of literature are sent out each month to our servicemen by a corps of 50 workers from the Chicago office of the Army and Navy Commission.

Here's what they say about it out there. Phm. J. E. Turner: "I would like to express my appreciation for the wonderful literature the Commission is sending me, and I assure you that for every copy you send, at least fifty men read it." Pfc. Roland Boren: "Your literature . . . is something that brings peace . . ."

The Serviceman's Prayer Book

400,000 copies of the prayer book have been sent out. This is how it is used:

"A real source of comfort and strength during those days in the jungles of New Guinea. I still use it, but it's in an awful shape."— Reported by Key Pastor Weber.

"My first *Prayer Book* was lost on the battlefield. I hope some German or Italian picked it up and made good use of it." — Ernest Gamin.

Leaflets

"Chaplain, I've stopped cussing. You know why?" a major asked Chaplain Harry Coiner. "I found this book." He pulled out *On Using Profanity.* "This thing makes such good sense," he said, "it's convinced me I ought to stop."

Loyalty

Six million copies of *Loyalty,* a monthly magazine, have been sent out by the Commission of our Synod.

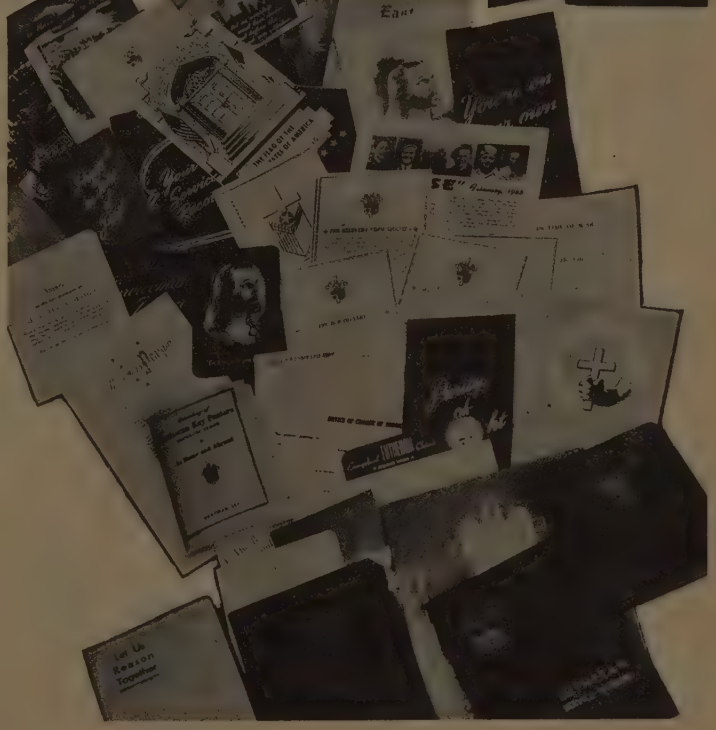
"For the past three Sundays we have been holding our own services, using some of the old issues of *Loyalty.* Tomorrow I'm going to read the Passion story . . . I might be able to do some good when I get home." — Carl Manske.

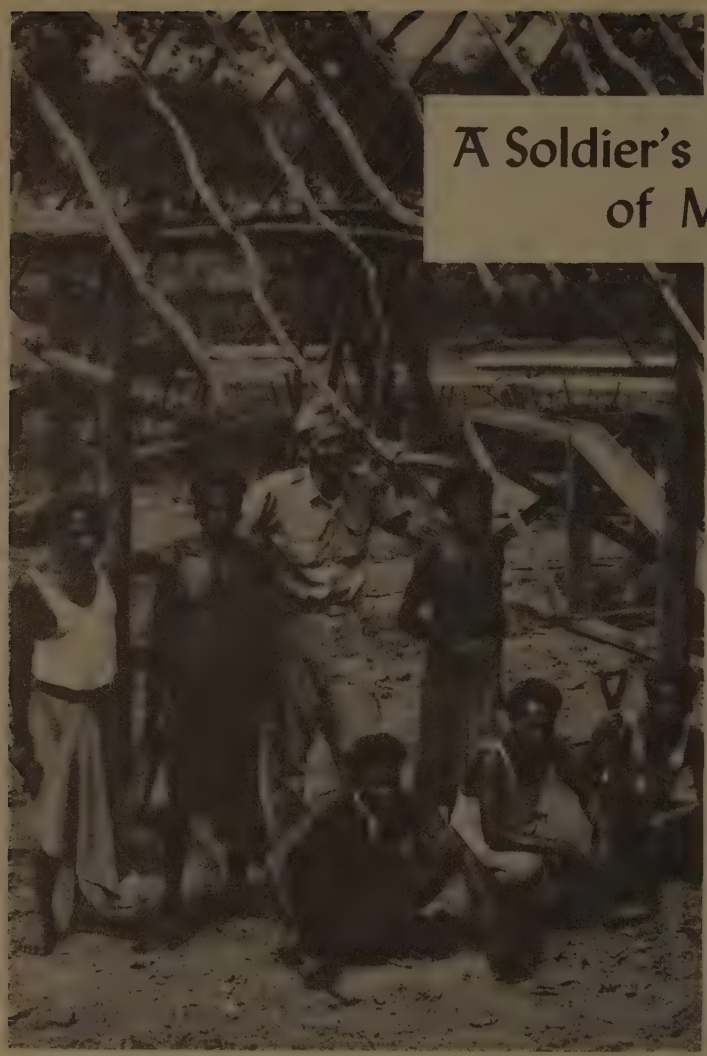
(Her name's S/Sgt. Mary E. Borchert:) "Times like today, when I'm in the hospital and cannot go to the chapel, we have decided we shall sing hymns and read *Loyalty.*"

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate your sending me 'At Ease' and Order for Private Service.

"There is another fellow with me here in the Field Hospital that also belongs to our faith. We enjoy reading to each other the order of private service. After we are through, we pass it out among the other fellows. 'At Ease' goes very well, too. I've seen it bring smiles into faces where gloom hung before." — Pvt. Walter Dahlke.

The regular mailing of *Loyalty* will continue to all our men and women in the armed forces.





A Soldier's View of MISSIONS

"WHAT can I do to be saved?" an anxious soldier asked Pfc. Carl J. Seifrid: "I noticed you always seem peaceful and untroubled." He answered, "Our Savior died for you too. . . . When things trouble me, I speak to God, who for my Savior's sake grants me forgiveness for a wrongdoing, a solution for my trouble, and lets me go away with a feeling of peace." And he writes to his mother, "Now I know that you were right, Mom, when you said, 'God must have some reason for your being over there!"

"To think that you're not baptized!" a Lutheran sergeant pleaded with a private huddled with him in a foxhole. And he went to see Chaplain Leland Larson, "What if he should get hit, Chaplain? He's not baptized." Then he came back to the foxhole and persuaded his buddy to see the chaplain. For three days the chaplain instructed him; on the fourth he baptized him.

Eyewitnesses of Our Missions

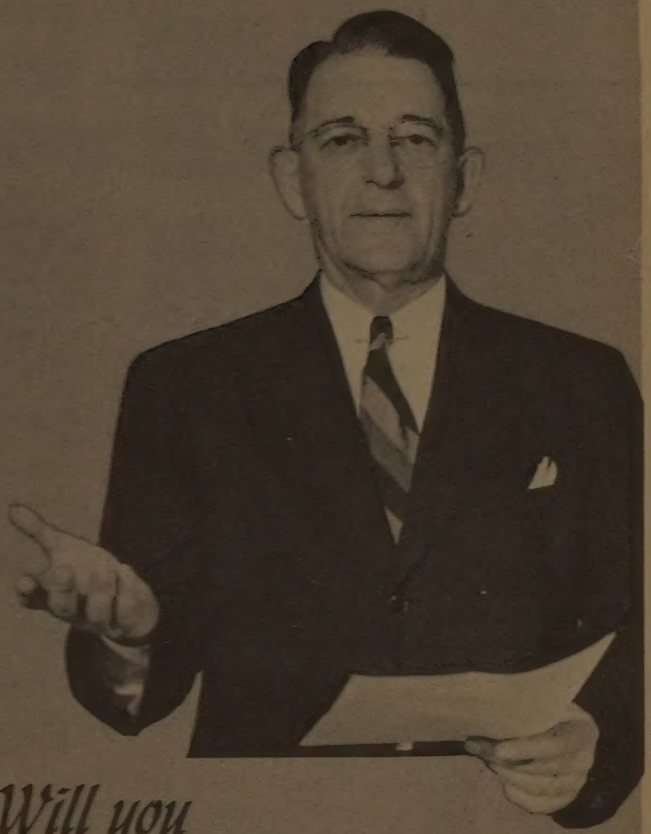
Two American fliers, as reported by John D. Bodger, were forced down in a Papuan jungle, and fearfully asked a brown-skinned native, "Are you going to kill us?" "No," he answered; "we take you to mission station."

Our men have gotten a new angle on missions. Norman Albers, an eyewitness of the labors of missionaries, says, "When you are back at home in comfort and luxury, you cannot realize the things our missionaries go through to bring their message to a few natives. I know it has shown me plenty."

Sold on Missions

Our men are coming back sold on missions. "If there is any part of the Lord's work that ought to be supported to the limit, it is missionary work," writes M. L. Duty of Denver. One officer sends several hundred dollars to his home church, saying, "I am con-

By PAUL L. DANNENFELDT: *Chairman*
Army and Navy Commission



Will you

. . . pray that Jesus may be with the thousands of our service men and women who will continue to spend many lonely months away from home?

WILL *YOU*

. . . keep flowing a continuous stream of many publications; *Loyalty* with its sermon, hymns, and prayers at a mailing cost (first class to insure prompt delivery overseas) of $2,500 a month; *Let Us Reason Together,* Directories of Service and Parish Centers and of all Key Pastors, *The Lutheran Chaplain,* Service Manuals and hymnals?

WILL *YOU*

. . . help maintain service centers, such as in Alaska, Hawaii, Panama Canal Zone, Australia, China, London, and Paris? Will you help establish new service centers in Germany, the Philippines, and Japan?

vinced that if our Christians could come to this side of the world and see conditions as they really are, they would also really understand what it means when a missionary to the heathen sounds the call, 'Come over and help us!' "

In India our men have filled their collection plates. Chaplain B. Hoffmann reports, "We hope soon to be able to furnish the money for their new chapel. No, we are not asking anyone back home to contribute toward the building of *this* chapel! This is *our* project. There are others which you can support! But don't be surprised when some of these men who return from overseas will have enthusiasm for foreign mission work!"

The conviction that we must build by the Gospel instead of destroying is gripping our men. "I am now sorry that I didn't study to be a missionary, as my folks wanted me to. But if I come out of this war alive, and if I ever make any kind of money, I am going to support one of our Missouri Synod foreign missionaries all by myself. I have felt and seen the power of the Word of God in the lives of these islanders."

Will you

. . . have a part in the wide mission endeavors in the Army and Navy as they will be carried on by your Church, its Commission and chaplains, service and key pastors, and by its Christian men and women in the service?

WILL *YOU*

. . . help comfort and cheer your many fellow Lutherans now in Army, Navy, and veterans' hospitals?

WILL *YOU*

. . . now, by a service that is vital and that for some time will be as expensive as before V-J Day, strengthen the faith of our service men, so that when they return they will march on in the forefront of a victorious Church?

Of course you will—God helping you

OUR CHURCH LOVES THEM

"Can you identify these organizations by their letters: RCAF, POW, UNRRA, USO?"

The contestant named the first three, but stumbled over the last. When he was about to give up, the quiz leader offered a little help: "They do a lot for the soldiers."

Then the contestant's face brightened; he knew that one: "*The Lutherans.*"

Our Church is staying on the job. Father, mother, the pastor, the Chicago and Winnipeg offices, service and key pastors, chaplains, and the thousands remaining in the service are sticking like a family that says, "Nothing can separate us!" Four to six thousand miles may be between them; but is is only a step for those whom the love of God in Christ has made one. — Our young people in particular are keeping up a morale-building flow of correspondence and gifts; Walther Leaguers in their Wartime Service Program collected over $80,000 for the free distribution of copies of the *Walther League Messenger,* the *Cresset,* and devotional booklets in camps and at the front.

A Prayer Squadron

Our Christians worshiping in their churches see the rolls of honor before them and the vacant places in the pews beside them, and conscious of the bond that reaches round the world, they send up a mighty prayer: Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them Near to Thee. They pray that their fellow Christians may come back sound in mind and in body, that the wounded be comforted, that the sorrowing be cheered.

My Church

And, "*My Church!*" our serviceman says with radiant eyes, and he holds his head up high; "my Church really follows me." "Our dear Church is certainly not sparing effort and money," says Lt. Luther Heilman, "to keep us with Christ while we are in the Army."

Are We With Them Still?

"WE'VE won the victory. Japan has surrendered." With that people are starting to forget about World War II.

Our Christians in the armed forces are anxious, too — more than we are — to forget about it all. They are weary at heart. They long for home.

But our country will need millions of men in the Armies of Occupation in Germany, in Japan, and on the islands of the Pacific. A large number of our fellow Lutherans will be in a gigantic navy. Still others will lie in hospitals for months . . . for years . . . or for the rest of their life.

For many only the shooting is over; and it may be long before they return home. We can hear them — the voices of these fellow Christians — asking, "Are you with us still?"

We Must Stay With Them

These voices will not let us take it easy. As we were with them on the muddy, bloody road to victory . . . as we came to them with God's gift of courage to go on when the going was hard . . . as we brought them heaven's power to "take it" living or dying . . . so we are with them still. The more lonely and weary they get, the more we shall steel ourselves not to let them down. Once they were ready to give life and limb. Now we ask them, "Is there anything we can do? We'll do it."

I'll Do My Best

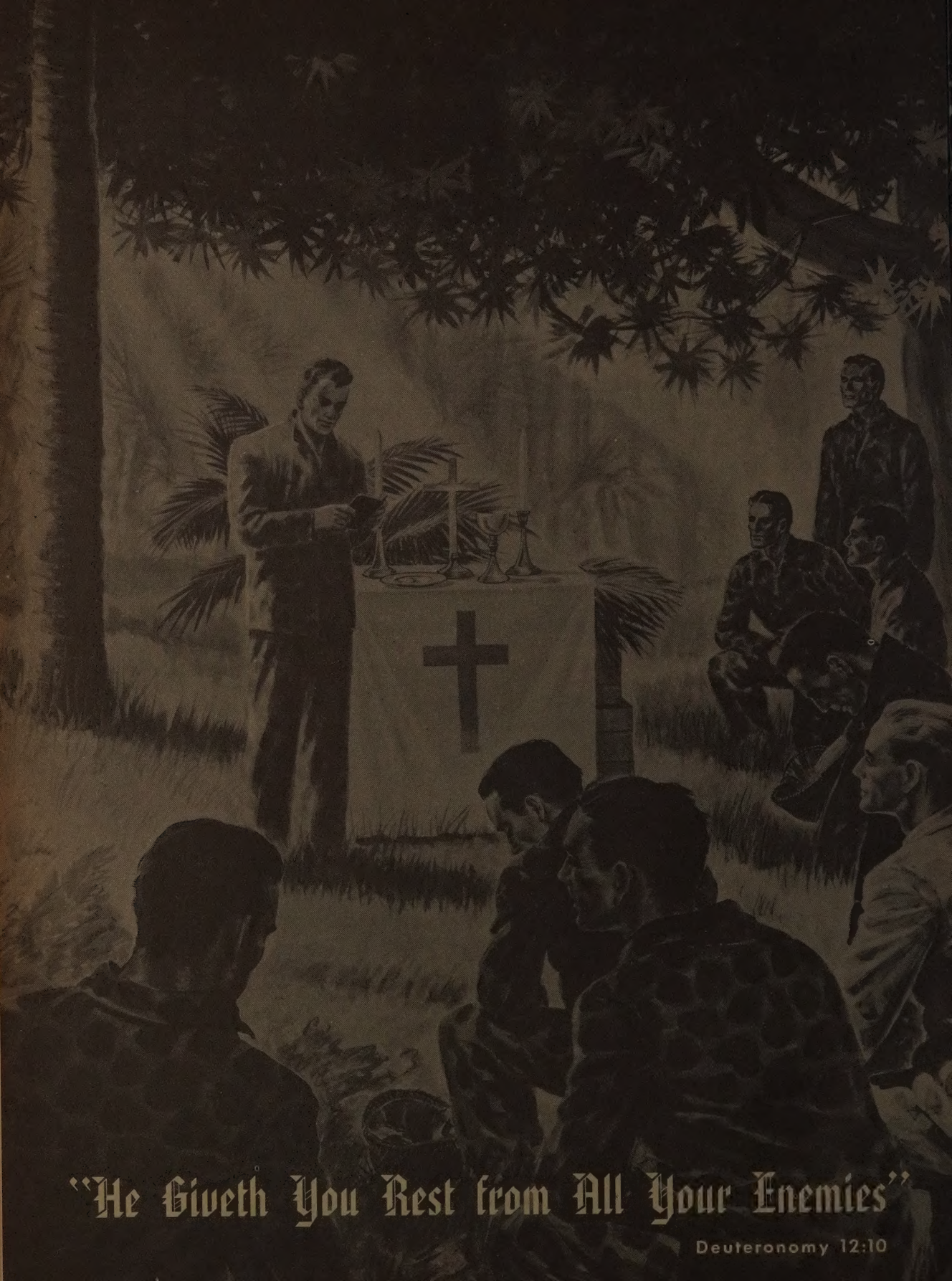
Members of the Redeemer Church in Kansas City read in their church bulletin on a Sunday in June, "Lying on our altar this morning, waiting to be consecrated with our other offerings, is a certified check for $300 from Carl Harre, Jr." On October 1 they read, "Carl Harre, Jr., was reported missing in action." From a prison camp in Europe he has now returned home. He did his best.

"Am I doing my best?" each Christian asks, and he thinks of the brothers and sons who have come through the fighting, of the sisters and daughters who have labored loyally, who now need our cheer and help wherever the government places them, who need the comfort and strength of their Savior. "Am I doing all I can to

KEEP CHRIST WITH THEM NOW

while they are serving in the armed forces, recovering in the hospitals, or in any way are in need of our loving care?"

Answer by
A LARGE OFFERING



"He Giveth You Rest from All Your Enemies"

Deuteronomy 12:10